

Message Text

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43

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SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN JOURNALISTS BEING USED TO SPREAD ANTI-US
LINE

REF (A) COTONOU 592, (B) COTONOU 552,

1. DURING VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN VICE FOREIGN MIN HAN SI HAE
LITTLE PROPAGANDA OF INTEREST WAS GENERATED. ONLY REFERENCE
TO KOREAN SITUATION WAS BRIEF TAPED EXCERP FROM TOAST AT
OFFICIAL DINNER DURING WHICH HE CALLED ON "THE US IMPERIALISTS"
TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS AND FOR THE ARMISTICE TO BE REPLACED
BY A PEACE TREATY. EVEN THAT WAS ONLY CARRIED ON ONE NEWS-
BROADCAST.

2. NOW WE HAVE THE VISIT OF THE NORTH KOREAN JOURNALISTS
(REF A). OSTENSIBLY THE PURPOSE OF THE TEN DAY VISIT IS
CONTACT WITH BENINESE COUNTERPARTS. IN FACT IT IS SERVING
AS A MEANS OF SPREADING NORTH KOREA'S LINE ON THE KOREAN
UNIFICATION ISSUE. THE APRIL 8 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER EHUZU
CARRIES EXTNSIVE EXCERPTS FROM A TALK GIVEN BY ZO (CHO)
YONG NAM, THE LEADER OF THE TWO MAN DEL, TO BEINESE JOURNALISTS.
AS WOULD BE EXPECTED IT IS HEAVILY ANTI-AMERICAN WITH CALLS
FOR CHASING THE "AMERICAN IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS" FROM KOREA,
AND CHARGES THE US IS PREVENTING THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF
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THE COUNTRY. QUOTE: DURING THREE YEARS OF WAR IN KOREA,

THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS AND ITS SOUTH KOREAN PUPPET LACKEYS
SUFFERED A SERIOUS DEFEAT. END QUOTE. INSTEAD OF LEARNING
A LESSON, THE NORTH KOREANS SAY WE INTENTIONALLY INCREASED
TENSION AND CONTINUALLY VIOLATE THE ARMISTICE. HE CHARGES
US WITH 183,000 SUCH VIOLATIONS SINCE THE ARMISTICE.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NOTICED OVER THE PAST TWO AND
ONE-HALF MONTHS AN EASING OFF OF GPRB MEDIA ATTACKS ON THE US
AND A SHIFT IN TACTICS. FIRST THE GPRB APPEARS TO HAVE
STOPPED PUTTING OUT ITS OWN STORIES WITH AN ANTI-AMERICAN
BENT. IT HAS LIMITED ITS ANTI AMERICAN PROPAGANDA TO NEWS
STORIES QUOTING THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES, SUCH AS THE JAI I
PHON STORY (SEE COTONOU 538) OR ONE BASED ON A REPORT IN THE
PARIS-BASED LEFTIST MAGAZINE "AFRIQUE-ASIE". IN THE TWO AND ONE
HALF MONTHS THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN THREE SUCH STORIES AND THEY
HAVE ONLY BEEN GIVEN RADIO COVERAGE. THE APRIL 8 EHUZU STORY
IS THE FIRST SUCH PROPAGANDA IN THE NEWSPAPER SINCE MID TO
LATE JAN AND ITS SOURCE WAS THE NORTH KOREANS.
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